

17 February 1969

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of Senate Armed Services Committee

Both Ed Braswell and Colonel Harper have been in touch with us (as well as Jim Kendall at an earlier date) regarding Senator Stennis' intention to hold full committee hearings on the military implications of the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is expected that Senator Stennis will schedule these hearings at the conclusion of the Foreign Relations Committee's hearings on the NPT -- probably beginning on Thursday, 27 February, and concluding on Monday, 3 March. *May push up to Wed. 26th - have checked with Ed to keep ball open.*

These staff members have indicated that Senator Stennis would like to have the Director brief the Committee on the nature of the threat. More specifically, they are interested in having the Director provide a briefing on the countries who might be expected to achieve a nuclear capability within the near future. Special emphasis should be placed on those countries who could achieve such a capability and who have not yet signed the NPT.

Mr. Braswell asked if we could check on the Director's availability to appear before the full committee either at the beginning of the hearings on Thursday or at the conclusion on Monday. I told him that in the past the Committee has felt it most desirable to have the Director appear prior to DOD witness and Braswell seemed to grasp this. We are advising that the Director is available on Thursday, the 27th. *or Wed 26th*

Bruce Clarke spent several hours with Preparedness Committee staff members (Kendall, Harper, and Gilleas) last week covering Soviet offensive missiles, bombers, and submarines. We plan to conclude this briefing on the threat on Wednesday covering Soviet fighters, ABMs and similar coverage of Communist Chinese weaponry. There is a problem that everyone will be facing in connection with this briefing. Although Senator Stennis has indicated that he wishes to keep these briefings short, there will be a strong tendency on the part of members to take advantage of the Director's presence to question him on a wide range of topics -- the most predominant of which will be the ABM issue. We plan to suggest to Braswell that he have the Chairman make an opening statement indicating the limitations on the scope of these hearings with the understanding that the Director will appear at a subsequent date to go into other areas. The fact that the Preparedness staff has been thoroughly briefed on the nature of the threat overall should be helpful in this regard also.